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In the Figures

Please insert new Figure 14 at the end of the figures.

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 164-201 (all of the pending claims) without prejudice.

Applicants will pursue these claims, or claims similarly directed to the subject matter thereof, by way of one or more continuation applications.

Please add the following claims.

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--Claim 202 (new). A purified and isolated DNA molecule capable of propagation in *E. coli* comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes human cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator ("CFTR") protein, said nucleotide sequence differing from a wild type CFTR-encoding nucleotide sequence by the presence of one or more point mutations in the region comprising nucleotide positions 908 to 936.

Claim 203 (new). A DNA molecule according to Claim 202 containing a single point mutation.

Claim 204 (new). A DNA molecule according to Claim 202 containing a T to C mutation at nucleotide position 936.

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Claim 205 (new). A DNA molecule according to Claim 202 wherein said CFTR-encoding nucleotide sequence is cDNA.

Claim 206 (new). A purified and isolated DNA molecule capable of propagation in *E. coli* comprising:

a first nucleotide sequence that encodes a wild type human cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator ("CFTR") protein; and

a second nucleotide sequence, whereby said second sequence disrupts expression of CFTR fragments toxic to *E. coli*, said second sequence being located downstream from nucleotide position 907 of said CFTR-encoding sequence.

Claim 207 (new). A DNA molecule according to Claim 206 wherein said second sequence is a sequence capable of being spliced from CFTR primary RNA transcript when expressed in an eukaryotic cell.

Claim 208 (new). A DNA molecule according to Claim 206 wherein said second sequence comprises a stop codon.

Claim 209 (new). A DNA molecule according to Claim 206 wherein said second sequence disrupts the translational reading frame of said encoding DNA.

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Claim 210 (new). A DNA molecule according to Claim 206 wherein said second sequence is placed between nucleotides 1716 and 1717 of said encoding DNA.

Claim 211 (new). A DNA molecule according to Claim 206 wherein said CFTR-encoding sequence is cDNA.

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Claim 212 (new). A plasmid comprising a DNA molecule according to Claim 202.

Claim 213 (new). A plasmid comprising a DNA molecule according to Claim 206.

Claim 214 (new). A host *E.coli* cell comprising a plasmid according to Claim 212.

Claim 215 (new). A host *E.coli* cell comprising a plasmid according to Claim 213.

Claim 216 (new). A purified and isolated DNA molecule capable of propagation in *E.coli* comprising:

(1) a nucleotide sequence that encodes wild-type human human cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator ("CFTR") protein, and

(2) an origin of replication permits maintenance of said DNA molecule at low copy number in a host *E. coli* cell.

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Claim 217 (new). A DNA molecule according to Claim 216 wherein said origin of replication permits maintenance of said DNA molecule at about 25 copies or less in a host *E. coli* cell.

Claim 218 (new). A DNA molecule according to Claim 217 consisting essentially of the plasmid pSC-CFTR2.

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Claim 219 (new). A host *E. coli* cell comprising a DNA molecule according to Claim 216.

Claim 220 (new). A host *E. coli* cell according to Claim 219 identified as pSC-CFTR2/AG1 deposited with the American Type Culture Collection as ATCC 68244.

Claim 221 (new). A host *E. coli* cell comprising a low copy number of nucleotide sequences that encode human cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator ("CFTR") protein.

Claim 222 (new). An RNA molecule complementary to the encoding nucleotide sequence of a DNA molecule according to Claim 202.

Claim 223 (new). An RNA molecule complementary to the first and second nucleotide sequences of a DNA molecule according to Claim 206.--